

Base Cost Special Education Expenditures

The Special Education High Cost Aid program is intended to assist eligible applicants with meeting the high costs of educating students with disabilities. The aid is based on the prior year's expenses and is funded with a combination of state categorical aid and funds awarded through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Expenses are calculated on a per student basis and include costs directly related to the education of a student with high cost special education needs. Eligible applicants include:

- Public school districts;
- Cooperative Educational Service Agencies (CESAs);
- County Children with Disabilities Education Boards (CDEBs); and
- Charter schools authorized under ss.118.40 (2r) Wis. Stats

To reflect the average special education cost of services provided to most students with disabilities, a \$10,000 line item will be automatically added to each student eligible to receive high cost aid. This \$10,000 base cost will cover pro-rated costs such as teachers, supplies, and therapists (occupational, physical and speech/language). The LEAs will select items not covered by the \$10,000 cost, such as one-one-one paraprofessionals and educational interpreters, from a drop down menu in the high cost software. The additional items selected by the LEA will represent costs that are unique to those individual students with disabilities that incur considerable special education and related service costs to the LEA.

Please note: The \$10,000 base was added because applicants were including pro-rated costs on past claims that could not be considered costs unique to the student. A foundational question to ask regarding whether or not the cost is being captured in the \$10,000 base is, "If the student no longer attended the district, would this cost still exist?" The salary and fringe costs of a teacher with eight students would still be the same if the student qualifying for high cost aid left the district, so the cost of the teacher is captured in the base that represents all students with disabilities.

The following list of costs are included in the \$10,000 base line cost. If an item is not available in the high cost student claim's drop down menu, it means that it has been captured within the \$10,000.

Adaptive Education	Psychologists - School-Based
Audiologist	Social Workers - School Based
Guidance Counselors	Software
Instructional Materials	Speech & Language Therapists
Nurse	Substitute Teachers
Occupational Therapists (Ot) And Ot Assistants	Supplies
Physical Education	Teachers – Special Education
Physical Therapists (Pt) And Pt Assistants	